

SENATE RESOLUTION 14

By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to recognize Mike Moore for his unparalleled service to the people of his state and the nation as Attorney General of the State of Mississippi.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially honor those elected officials who have performed their duties with the utmost integrity and singular devotion, and whose efforts to ensure competent and efficient public service have brought immeasurable benefits to their respective communities and to all citizens of this great nation; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi Attorney General Mike Moore is one such distinguished public servant, who has served his constituency and the State of Mississippi for sixteen years with great honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, in November of 1979, at the age of 27, Mike Moore became the youngest district attorney to be elected in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, eight years later, in large part due to his stellar prosecution record against political corruption in Pascagoula, Mississippi, he was elected Attorney General, thus becoming the first person in six decades from the Mississippi Gulf Coast to win election to a statewide office; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as Attorney General, Mike Moore has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the people of his state; his record of convictions and settlements is testament to his work for those people most desperately in need of public service; and

WHEREAS, Mike Moore has earned respect at the Capitol and throughout the State of Mississippi as a dedicated and well-informed attorney who worked by his conscience, with the best interest of his state's citizens always in mind; and

WHEREAS, in his ceaseless efforts to make the streets of Mississippi safer and drug-free, Attorney General Moore lobbied for years for a statewide Grand Jury to handle drug cases; his efforts were rewarded in 1993 with the court-ordered naming of a pool of potential candidates; and

WHEREAS, his work did not stop with illegal drugs: on May 23, 1994, Attorney General Moore gained national attention by filing a lawsuit on behalf of the State of Mississippi against the nation's cigarette manufacturers for reimbursement for tax dollars spent in the treatment of cigarette smokers; and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Moore's lawsuit was the first of its kind in the nation, and it sparked a national condemnation of the tobacco industry that helped to dictate national tobacco policies and ended, in 1997, with a \$3.336 billion settlement; he has since fought ceaselessly to protect those funds; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his lawsuit against the tobacco industry, in 1994, Attorney General Moore also called on Congress to pass an anti-crime bill that contained up to \$110 million for law enforcement agencies in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Moore has earned a reputation as a man who fights for the desires of his constituency: in 1996, he spoke before the United States Supreme Court in an effort to reinstate his state's 1994 school prayer law; and

WHEREAS, furthering a mission that began during his tenure as a prosecutor on the Gulf Coast, Attorney General Moore has launched several public corruption cases in his tireless efforts to cleanse the Mississippi state government of dishonesty and fraud; and

WHEREAS, he has fought with great dedication and distinction for justice in unsolved murder cases from the Civil Rights era; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Attorney General Moore and his staff assisted in the investigation of the 1966 murder of Vernon Dahmer, Sr., a businessman and NAACP leader from Hattiesburg, Mississippi; in August of 1998, one-time Ku Klux Klan Imperial Wizard, Sam Bowers, was tried, convicted, and sentenced to life for that crime; and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Moore also attempted to find enough evidence to launch new prosecutions for the 1964 slayings of three Civil Rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, lawmakers approved a desegregation settlement plan for Ayers College that Attorney General Moore helped to design; and

WHEREAS, he works determinedly in service of the youth of his state; in 1999, he outlined a plan to raise \$1 million in order to recruit 2,000 mentors for children; and

WHEREAS, he is a dynamic participant in the legal process, and he has earned the universal admiration of his colleagues and constituents alike for his outstanding contributions to the State of Mississippi, and for the conviction and intelligence he has displayed in discharging his duties; and

WHEREAS, a master of compromise, Attorney General Moore is highly admired in Mississippi for his ability to bring those of disparate opinions together on issues for the common good of the people of his state; recently, he was recognized by Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove for his help in ending an impasse over Mississippi's Division of Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, he has been additionally recognized by the American Medical Association, which, in 1997, named him one of the recipients of the 1997 Dr. Nathan Davis Award, for

outstanding contributions to promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Attorney General Moore was named "Lawyer of the Year" by the *National Law Journal*; and

WHEREAS, despite the accolades that have rained down upon him during his tenure as Attorney General, Mike Moore has always been and remains a most humble servant to his fellow Mississippians; and

WHEREAS, it was with a great sense of disappointment that we recently learned of Attorney General Moore's decision not to run for another term in his office; and

WHEREAS, despite his plans to leave office, Mike Moore will continue in his work to mentor children, to expand and develop the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi that was funded by the tobacco lawsuit settlement money, and to practice law; and

WHEREAS, we wish him the utmost success in his future endeavors, as he takes time off to focus on spending more time with his beloved wife, Tish, and their son, Kyle; and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Moore is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service, is well-deserving of a restful retirement from his work as Attorney General of the State of Mississippi, and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby commend Attorney General Mike Moore of Mississippi for his honorable and astute service to the good people of his state, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.